THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : We shall now take up clause 5 for consideration. There are three amendments (Nos.7 to 9) by Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi. Are you moving the amendments?

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Madam, I am not moving the amendments.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : I shall now put clause 5 to vote.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 6 to 13 were added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : We shall now take up clause 14 for consideration. There are three amendments (Nos.10 to 12) by Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi. Are you moving the amendments?

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Madam, I am not moving the amendments.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : I shall now put clause 14 to vote.

Clause 14 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 15 and 16 were added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : We shall now take up clause 17 for consideration. There is one amendment (No. 13) by Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi. Are you moving the amendment?

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Madam, I am not moving the amendment.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : I shall now put clause 17 to vote.

Clause 17 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 18 to 26 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Madam, I beg to move:

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : We shall now take up the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2008. Shri V. Narayanasamy.

The Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Madam, thank you for giving me this unique opportunity to move this Bill for the consideration of the House. Madam, I beg to move:

That the Bill further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

Madam, with the adoption of the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission by the Government of India effective from 1st January, 2006, the salaries of the Secretaries to the Government of India and that of the Cabinet Secretary have been raised to Rs.80,000 and Rs.90,000 respectively. The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament had been revised by the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Act, 2006 with effect from 15th September, 2006 and by amendment of the rules with effect from 12th December, 2006. Keeping this in view and to maintain parity, between the salary of the President, the Chairman of Council of States and the Governors of the States, it is proposed to consider and pass the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2008 further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953, as passed by Lok Sabha, to provide that the Chairman of the Council of States shall be entitled to an enhanced salary of Rs. 1,25,000 per mensem.

The above provision would involve a recurring expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India to the tune of Rs. 10,22,000 per annum.

Madam, the Bill is very simple and non-controversial in nature. Based on the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission that have enhanced the salaries of the Government officers and keeping in view the salary of the President of India which has been enhanced, this Bill has been brought in this House. The Lok Sabha has already passed this Bill. Therefore, I commend this Bill for consideration by the House. Whether it has to be passed without discussion or with discussion, it has to be decided by the House.

The question was proposed.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Madam, I stand here to speak on the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2008. I don't have any objection in passing this Bill. I have only a small objection or a small grievance on behalf of the most of the Members of Parliament. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, they have mentioned, "At present, the Chairman of the Council of States is paid a salary of Rs. 40,000 per mensem. In view of the enhancement in the Salary and Allowances of Members of Parliament and of officers of the Government of India based on the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission and also the amendments being proposed for raising the salary of the President of India and the Governors of States with effect from the 1st day of January, 2006..." My only objection is against this sentence 'In view of the enhancement of the salary and allowances of Members of Parliament'. While discussing this matter, I would like to draw the attention of the House and through this house of the country that there is a wrong impression about the Members of Parliament that they get high perks and hefty salaries. It is not correct. He is talking about this amendment. Actually, the Members of Parliament get a salary of Rs. 16,000 per month. This salary was enhanced prior to the report of the Sixth Pay Commission. As Shri Valayar Ravi has mentioned about the enhancement of salary of Members of Parliament in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, that is why I am raising this issue; otherwise, I was not interested in raising this issue. Whenever I meet any Member of Parliament in the Central Hall or in any meeting or somewhere else, they mention that even the salary of a Member of the Legislature Assembly is double or treble than the Member of Parliament. In some States, they get Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 30,000 per month and other facilities also which we do not get. But in the media, in the electronic media or in the print media, every now and then, there is a talk that the Members of

Parliament are getting hefty salary and they are misutilising the money, which is not correct at all. While moving this Bill, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should have said that the salary of a Member of Parliament is Rs. 16,000 per month. Now I come to the second point. We get Rs. 14,000 for secretarial Assistance, and even towards that amount of Rs. 14,000, there is a stipulation that one of the staff should be a computer literate. Would any computer-literate staff be prepared to work for such a low salary? And this amount is to be divided for staff employed at our constituency and here. When I was discussing this privately with the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, I told him, "When you are thinking about raising the salary of Presiding Officers of Parliament, when you are raising the salary of President, Vice President and Governors, the term of their office is five years, while ours is six years. They are elected by a representative body, and we are also elected by a representative body. You should consider about Members of Parliament as well."

Again, talking about secretarial assistance that we are entitled to, as a Chief Whip of the political party or as Leader of the political party, we get a Private Secretary. And his old basic pay is Rs.8,000-Rs. 13,500. Now today, a Lower Division Clerk draws more than that. In fact, with the implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission Report, he will not only draw more than that but also with retrospective effect. Now, they are not interested to discuss about Members of Parliament. If anybody can convince me that a salary of Rs. 16,000, to a Member of Parliament is a good amount, then, I will agree. Apart from being a Member of Parliament, if he/she engages in any business or provides consultancy services, there is the Ethics Committee; there are guidelines drawn out to the effect that we have to declare in writing that there will not be conflict of interest, and all that. Members of Parliament are basically 100 per cent, 24 x 7, all-time Members of Parliament. When such is the case with Members of Parliament, you should take care of them too. That is my submission. And I would like to support this Bill which proposes to increase the Chairman's salary from Rs.40,000 to Rs. 1,25,000.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I support the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2008. The post, which is adorned by the individual, actually carries a lot of weight in the international arena too. It is not a post on the basis of salary alone, but it is a post which carries a lot of work also.

As Shri Ahluwalia has correctly mentioned, Members of Parliament are now doing a lot of job. At the same time, we are portrayed in newspapers and media as if we only get adjournments made every day and stop working, and we are jolly well enjoying the holidays. That is the feeling which the people are getting about the Members of Parliament. Therefore, whenever we go out to address any public meeting or the University students, etc., we explain to them, "This is the general thinking about the Members of Parliament. But think of our work in Committees. We have Standing Committees and other Parliamentary Committees where we are doing a lot of research work; we have to do a lot of reading and discuss with people several things. After intense discussions and analysis, we come out with the best report possible, by putting all the wise decisions which have been given by different people. This work is carried out for more than 100 days a year." Therefore, we have to also show to the public how we are working. Recently, in a meeting with the IAS Academy, I had an opportunity to raise this subject with them. There were IAS officers of 10 years'

experience and also raw people who were just probationers. About 300 officers were sitting there. I asked whether anyone of them can say something about the Parliamentary Standing Committees. None of the officers raised his hand. Only one new-comer, a probationer told that there is a Committee by which you can monitor the work of the Executive. That was the answer he could give. First of all, we have to market ourselves. How, we, as the Members of Parliament, are doing the work. We have to say to the people just like the Europe and America are saying. In Europe and America, they are telling it through a plenary session. They call it a plenary session. Even in U.K., I could find out that in the morning session, they are sitting as a Committee, and in the afternoon, they are sitting as a plenary session. Therefore, we have to tell the people that how we are working; otherwise, even this small amount of Rs.15,000 per month, which we are getting as a salary — somebody said that it is equal to the salary of a Class IV or the lowest cadre employee — they feel that it is too much taxing on the people.

In the same way, Madam, I feel that the Chairmanship of the Council of States is a very, very important post. It is so because it holds both the administrative work and also the work relating to presiding over meetings of the Council of States, meeting the dignitaries, going on foreign tours and also discussing certain issues which are very much relevant now. I feel that even this amount of Rs. 1,25,000 is not sufficient. I am saying this because when you are fitting in the topmost 1,2 and 3, then it should be commensurate not only with buildings and paraphernalia but also with emoluments that they are getting. That also speaks about it. We need not compare it with the President of the United States or the Prime Minister of the U.K. or any other country. We put it in the Constitution saying that Rs.1 lakh or Rs.50,000 will be the salary of the President of India. That shows that that was the topmost figure at that time. But, now the CEO of a company is earning Rs.5 crores per year or Rs.10 crores per year. Therefore, we have to increase the value of that particular post by giving more emoluments because they are doing a wonderful job of coordinating with the people and giving a stature to the country. Whenever we mention the President or the Vice-President, who holds the Chairmanship of the Council of States or the Speaker or the Prime Minister or the Ministers, they hold certain dignity. We have to give them more perquisites in financial terms. They should be given more for that. But, at the same time, we have to see that they accountable, they are beyond all doubts of corruption and other practices, influences and other things. These aspects we have to bring to the knowledge of the people and more so to the knowledge of the media. It is not that politicians have to come with bare hands and work throughout the year. They are accountable for that. They should also be paid for that. Therefore, that sort of thinking has to be developed in the minds of the people.

Madam, regarding the administrative side, I would like to comment upon it and it may not be out of context to mention here. The Chairman of the Council of States has the right to nominate the Vice-Chancellors of the Central Universities, the deemed universities and certain other posts. When the Chairman takes a decision, that has to be followed as it is. It should not simply go from one Department to another Department and another Department and wait for one year. I can give a

straight example concerning my State. It is relating to the Gandhi Gram University, which is a prestigious university. The post of the Vice-Chancellor is lying vacant for the past one year. It was already cleared by the Chairman of the Council of the States, but it is not finding the light of the day. Why? It is so because it goes through many Departments. These Departments are coming forward and putting many questions. There should be proper consultation between various Departments before a decision is taken. The necessary papers should be built up before taking a decision. And once a decision is taken, then, everything should be obeyed. Madam, I could cite one example here. When I visited China with the blessings of Madam Sonia Gandhi I had discussions with the top-level people there. What they say is, even if the Chairman of a municipal corporation takes a decision, that would be followed by the topmost person in China. When the topmost person takes a decision, nobody will question it; the next day it will be acted upon by everybody. But, here, if you take a decision, it will take its own course. What is the purpose in having a position or name like this? If the person has decided it, it should be acted upon immediately; it has to be respected, and weightage should be given for that.

With this, I fully support this, but we have to increase the salary of Members of Parliament, and perks and other things also because we people are working hard, 24 x 7, and we also should be paid for that; because we need to create substantial prestige in the eyes of the people, more so in the media. Thank you very much.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत (पश्चिमी बंगाल): थैंक्यू मैडम। मैं तो इस बिल के समर्थन में बोलने के लिए खड़ी हुई हूं। मैं समझती हूं कि यह बहुत ही अनिवार्य है कि हमारे राज्य सभा के चेयरमैन के जो भी Emoluments हैं, वह बहुत नगण्य हैं, negligible हैं, उनको बढ़ाना चाहिए, इसका मैं समर्थन करती हूं। जब मैंने "आफिसर्स" शब्द देखा था, तो एक परिभाषा है, क्योंकि वह आफिसर्स आफ पार्लियामेंट हैं और यहां जो हमारे साथ अन्य आफिसर्स काम करते हैं, ये आफिसर्स राज्य सभा सक्रेटिएट में हैं, वे पार्लियामेंट में ही काम करते हैं। मैं समझती हूं कि यह प्रासंगिक है कि जब हम आफिसर्स की एक कैटेगरी की Conditions और Emoluments की बात करते हैं, तो यह प्रासंगिक है कि हम अन्य आफिसर्स के बारे में भी, जो पार्लियामेंट के काम-धाम को मजबूत करने के लिए रोल अदा करते हैं, उनके बारे में थोड़ा सोचें।

मैडम, वे आफिसर्स ऐसे हैं कि उनके लिए तो यह मंच हम लोग कम ही इस्तेमाल कर पाते हैं। हमारे चेयरमैन साहब ने आफिसर्स की एसोसिएशन को स्वीकृति देकर बहुत ही अच्छा कदम उठाया, यह उनके काम को बढ़ाने के लिए किया। लेकिन जैसे एक रेलगाड़ी चलती है और आगे का डिब्बा रुकता है, तो पूरी गाड़ी रुक जाती है। अभी जहां तक हमारे आफिसर्स की वेकेन्सीज़ का सवाल है, अभी इम्पोर्टेंट पोस्ट, मिसाल के तौर पर एडीशनल सेक्रेटरी की पोस्ट है, अब अगर एडिशनल सेक्रेटरी की पोस्ट बहुत महीनों से या साल से दो या तीन एडिशनल सेक्रेटरी की पोस्ट्स अगर खाली हैं, वे नही भरी जा रही हैं, तो फिर पूरे प्रमोशन की लाइन हमारे राज्य सभा सेक्रेटिएट के आफिसर्स की है, वह रुक जाती है। जब हम एक आफिसर्स की कैटेगरी की बात सोच रहे हैं, क्या हम कम से कम इस बहस के द्वारा हम अपने पार्लियामेंट्री एफेयर्स मिनिस्टर, हालांकि ज्युरिडिक्शन तो चेयरमैन की ही है पूरे सेक्रेटिऐट की, लेकिन फिर भी, निश्चित रूप से हम लोगों की तरफ से एक बात जरूर जानी चाहिए कि जो इस प्रकार की वैकेंसीज़ हैं, अगर उनमें प्रमोशन के एवेन्युज़ रुक जाते हैं, तो पार्लियामेंट की एफिसिएंट काम करने में दिक्कत होती है। जब पूरे प्रमोशन की लिस्ट रुक जाती है, जो इसको हमें सुधारने की जरूरत है।

मैडम, इसके साथ ही साथ आपकी इजाजत से, मैं एक और बात इस मौके पर कहना चाहती हूं। अभी हम लोग जो यहां सांसद हैं, यहां तो बहुत ही सीनियर सांसद बैठे हैं, जो वर्षों से हैं, कई टर्म्स से हैं, लेकिन मैंने यहां नोटिस किया कि जो राज्य सभा सेक्रेटिएट का स्टाफ है, हर मेम्बर मेरे साथ इस बात से सहमत होंगे कि हमारे राज्य सभा सेक्रेटिएट का चैम्बर स्टाफ हो या और भी स्टाफ हो, उनकी मदद से जनता के प्रतिनिधि के रूप में हमारा काम काफी मजबूत होता है। अभी जब मैंने देखा, क्योंकि लोक सभा और राज्य सभा की जो तमाम संस्थाएं हैं, उनसे मेरा संबंध है, मुझे पता चला कि पे-बॉडी का गठन हुआ है और इस पे-बॉडी के गठन में जो लोक सभा के हमारे आफिसियल्स हैं, जो लोग हैं, वे तो बहुत तेजी के साथ उस पर डिसकस कर रहे हैं...।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): May I interrupt you for a minute? Apparently, conventionally, the matters regarding the officers of the Secretariat should be taken up directly with the Chairman.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Fine, Madam. That is why I said that we do not have an opportunity to raise these things. But I just felt that since we are talking about officers of Parliament, these are different categories of officers, I would not go into it more, but I would certainly like to request you; because you also hold a position and we have Ministers here now, in charge of Parliamentary Affairs, I think, we should also have a look at the conditions of the staff here and recommendations of the Pay Body should be accelerated with a sympathetic consideration; because, unfortunately, one House has a sympathetic consideration and the other House says that there is no need for any increase and that may cause certain problems and heartburning. We would like to avoid that as far as possible, in our House. Therefore, my only request is that we should consider these issue when we talk about this category of officers. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: They are working under the same dome. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : We will convey this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: They are under the same dome but one approach is there and another approach is here. My point is that let both the approaches by sympathetic to the staff. That is my point.

[**श्री उपसभापति** पीठासीन हुए]

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार): महोदय, यह जो बिल है, मैं इसके समर्थन में बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं। जब मैं इस बिल को पढ़ रहा था, तो मेरी समझ में यह बात आ रही थी कि पार्लियामेंट के जो आफिसर्स हैं, जो स्टाफ है, उनके बारे में भी कुछ बात करेंगे, लेकिन हमको लगता है कि केवल चेयरमैन और प्रेजिडेंट के बारे में ही यह बिल लाया गया है। अभी अहलुवालिया जी ने बहुत ठीक कहा है कि मैम्बर ऑफ पार्लियामेंट को कितना पैसा मिलता है? अखबार में खबर छपती है कि इनको एक लाख, डेढ़ लाख सैलरी मिलती है। मेरे पास इसका हिसाब है कि हमें 16 हजार रुपए तनख्वाह मिलती है। अभी आपने बाढ़ राहत कोष में पैसा मांगा कि आप अपनी सैलरी दीजिए, तो मैंने कहा कि मैं एक महीने की सैलरी देता हूं। उसमें से केवल 16 हजार रुपए ही कटे, ज्यादा नहीं कटे। जब हमारे बैंक एकाउंट में पैसा आया तो देखा कि उसमें से केवल 16 हजार रुपए ही कटे। हम लोगों को पता भी नहीं है कि हमारी कितनी तनख्वाह है! हमारी 16 हजार तनख्वाह इसलिए है कि आप 16 हजार ही काटते हैं। अगर हमें बिहार में मुख्यमंत्री राहत कोष में पैसा देना होता है, तब भी 16 हजार ही कटता है। मैं आप से आग्रह करना चाहूंगा कि जो हमें TA या अन्य भत्ते मिलते हैं, हम उनको सैलरी में नहीं जोड़ते हैं। यह 16 हजार तनख्वाह किसकी होती है? हमारे

यहां जो क्लर्क काम करते हैं, किसी सैक्रेटेरिएट में जो क्लर्क काम करते हैं या उसके नीचे जो चपरासी होते हैं, उसकी तनख्वाह भी कम से कम 16 हजार हो जाती है। मैं यह नहीं कहता हूं कि आप मेरे तनख्वाह बढ़ा दीजिए, हम तनख्वाह बढ़ाने के पक्ष में नहीं हैं, लेकिन सर, हम लोग 24 आवर्स काम करते हैं। यदि हम रेल में जाते हैं तो वहां भी रेकमेंडेशन करते हैं, कहीं और जाते हैं तो वहां भी रेकमेंडेशन करते हैं। हम लोग यहां पर 9-9 घंटे बैठते हैं। हम कोर्ट में बहस करते हैं, तो पांच मिनट में तुरंत 1200 या 1300 रुपए मिलते हैं। हम लोग यहां आठ घंटे, नौ घंटे बैठते हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: 1200 रुपए मिलते हैं!

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद: पांच मिनट में, कोर्ट में मिलते हैं। मैं बता रहा हूं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: 1200 भी मिलते हैं और बड़ी कोर्ट में दो लाभ भी मिलते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: एक प्रैक्टिसिंग लॉयर हैं, उनका कहना है कि लोअर कोर्ट में बहस करने के लिए 1200, 1400 रुपए ही मिलते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद: मैं बता रहा हूं कि वहां बहस करो और पांच मिनट में 1200 रुपए ...**(व्यवधान)**... यानी बहस की और पांच मिनट में 1200 रुपए लेकर जाओ। यहां पर 9-9 घंटे बैठना पड़ता है और कभी-कभी तो रात में भी बैठना पड़ता है। आप कितना देते हैं, आप हजार रुपया देते हैं। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि आप तनख्वाह बढ़ाइए, लेकिन यदि यहां पर यह बिल आया है तो हमें इस पर जरूर विचार करना चाहिए। यदि आप इस पर विचार नहीं करेंगे तो जो डिस्पेरेटी आएगी, तो उसके बारे में क्या होगा? हम यह नहीं कह रहे हैं कि चेयरमैन साहब की तनख्वाह नहीं बढ़नी चाहिए, लेकिन हम लोग जिस स्थिति में काम करते हैं, मीडिया वाले कहते हैं कि इनको बहुत प्रिविलेज है और इनको एक लाख रुपए तनख्वाह मिलती है, तो हमें इस मृग तृष्णा से जरूर बचना चाहिए कि हम लोगों की तनख्वाह कितनी है! इसलिए महोदय, हम आपके माध्यम से यह कहना चाहते हैं कि अगर यह 6th पे कमीशन लागू हुआ है, तो इसका सभी लोगों को फल मिलना चाहिए, केवल पर्टिकुलर लोगों को फल नहीं मिलना चाहिए। सभी लोगों को फल मिलना चाहिए, अगर उसमें हम लोग आते हैं, तो हम लोगों को भी फल मिलना चाहिए। धन्यवाद।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. I am grateful to the hon. Members, Shri S. S. Ahluwalia, Shri Sudarsana Natchiappan, Shrimati Brinda Karat and also Shri Rajniti Prasad who have contributed to the discussion. Sir, all the Members have unanimously supported the Bill. I am grateful to them. We have not only to see the Sixth Pay Commission but we have to see the status of the office of the Chairman and apart from that the Members found that the Chairman's salary is Rs. 40,000. When the President of India's salary has been increased to Rs. 1,50,000, the Government also considered that it has to be increased. In consonance with that we have to consider the salary of the hon. Vice-President. Sir, other issues have been raised by the hon. Members starting from Shri S. S. Ahluwalia who said that the hon. Members' salary have to be increased. Sir, the point raised by them is valid. One thing I would like to add along with that is that the media is saying that the Members of Parliament have been given more salaries and whenever an issue comes in the House that the Parliament Members' salary is increased by Rs. 5000 or Rs. 10,000 the media writes adverse remark about it.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra): We are not guided by them.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I am not against it. I am for you on this and I also feel that the Members of Parliament work for 24 hours, either in the Parliament or in their constituencies and they have to be given better facilities. I agree with the hon. Member's suggestion. I have no two opinions about it. But, Sir, the issue that has come now is, earlier the Government was deciding the Members' salary and allowances but now it has been handed over to a Committee. The Parliamentary Committee is headed by a very senior Member of the Lok Sabha. Shri Giridhar Gamang is the Chairman of the Members' Salaries and Allowances Committee. That Committee, from the time to time, considers the issues relating to the Members of Parliament's salaries and allowances and other perks and it gives the recommendation to the Government and thereafter the Government decides. Therefore, we will take up the sentiments expressed by the hon. Members about the Members' salaries and allowances at the appropriate forum and see that the Members' issues are taken up in a proper manner. Sir, according to the Bill, the Bill was passed in 1953. The definition of the Bill is that the officer or Member of Parliament means any of the following officers namely, Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Council of States and the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of the people. The general impression is that the officers of Members of Parliament apply to other officers of the Parliament. It only confines to the hon. Chairman, hon. Deputy Chairman, hon. Speaker and hon. Deputy Speaker only. The Bill is only confined to that. An issue raised by the hon. Member, Shrimati Brinda Karat about the staff. I have appreciation for all the officers of Rajya Sabha who are working here right from the Secretary General to the other officers. They are doing commendable job and they have been helping the Members of Parliament in functioning. I can see that if any Member who gives a notice, with in minutes the notice is being forwarded and action is being taken and they are working with a great sense of duty. We have no doubt about it. But, Sir, the hon. Chairman is the deciding authority for the facilities and perks of the officers of Rajya Sabha. Therefore, this is not the forum where we can discuss it. Our hon. Chairman will decide on it. Sir, since the hon. Members have given their unanimous support to this Bill without any reservation, I request the House to return this Bill. Hon. Members have also mentioned about the issue of salaries and allowances for Members of Parliament. We will take up the issue with the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament and apprise it that the salaries and allowances to Members of Parliament have to be increased on the lines of recommendations made by the Sixth Central Pay Commission. It was passed in 2006. Now, we are in 2008. I will convey the feelings of the Members to the Chairman and the Committee. Then, the Committee will take appropriate decision.

With these words, Sir, I request the House to return the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: Now, the question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: Now; we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I beg to move:

[That the Bill be returned.]

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: Now, we have three more important Bills – The President's Emoluments and Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2008, the Vice-President's Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2008, and the Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Amendment Bill, 2008.

Mr. Minister, I suggest you to move all the three Bills together so that we can take up consideration of three Bills together.

The President's Emoluments and Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2008;

The Vice-President's Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2008

and

The Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Amendment Bill, 2008

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the President's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I also move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1997, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I also move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Act, 1982, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

सर, भारत के राष्ट्रपति का पद हमारे देश का सर्वोच्च संवैधानिक पद है। इस पद को जो भी ग्रहण करते हैं, जब वे office demit करते हैं या जब उनका रिटायरमेंट होता है, तो वे पेंशन एवं कुछ निश्चित सुविधाओं के अधिकारी होते हैं। पहले उनकी मासिक सैलरी लगभग-लगभग 50,000 रुपए थी, जिसे सरकार ने विचार-विमर्श के उपरांत बढ़ा कर 1,50,000 रुपए करने का निर्णय लिया है। जो भी हमारे पूर्व राष्ट्रपति होते हैं, अगर वे स्वयं नहीं रहे तो उनके जो स्पाउस हैं, उनको मकान एवं अन्य सुविधाएं प्रदान करने के संबंध में भी सरकार ने कुछ निर्णय लिये हैं, जिसे हमारे स्वास्थ्य विभाग, अर्बन डेवलपमेंट मिनिस्ट्री एवं वित्त मंत्रालय से सहमति के पश्चात् तय किया गया है। इस पद के साथ जो मर्यादा जुड़ी हुई है, उसको देखते हुए, हमारे जो पूर्व राष्ट्रपति एवं वर्तमान राष्ट्रपति हैं, सरकार ने उनके मंथली इमॉल्यूमेंट्स में वृद्धि करने का फैसला लिया है।

राष्ट्रपति पद, हमारे राष्ट्र का सर्वोच्च संवैधानिक पद है और एक तरह से आज की जो स्थितियां एवं परिस्थितियां हैं, सरकार ने उनके अनुरूप उनकी सैलरीज़ को बढ़ाने का निर्णय लिया है। हम सदन से आग्रह करेंगे कि उस दिशा में अगर सर्व सम्मति से ही इस बिल को पास किया जाए तो बहुत उचित होगा।

सर, एक दूसरा बिल भी इसके साथ है। वह यह है कि जो उपराष्ट्रपति हैं, उनके पेंशन का और उनके जो स्पाउज़ हैं, अगर वे नहीं हैं तो उनको जो सुविधाएं मिलती हैं, उनमें थोड़ी बढ़ोत्तरी की है। उसके साथ ही जो